

Aga Khan Academy shines at fete

Led by vocally-gifted Abigail Aketch Obiero, this powerhouse in the music festival from the Coast once again showed why they are a force to reckon with, writes **GEORGE ORIDO**

When Abigail Aketch Obiero hit the stage at the Kenya National Music Festival, there was no doubt that a star, a diva, was in the making.

The talented Abigail was in her element when she scooped two first positions at the fete.

First with a solo set piece performance of the *Cradle Song* by Fwame Schubert for the lower Primary Schools and second in a duet with Disha D'Silva as they rendered own choice of *Do-Re-me* from the musical play *The Sound of Music* written by Clay Wamich with music by Richard Rodge.

The duet scored a very high mark of 91 per cent under the keen tutelage of Mr Philip Mbinji, who has dedicated his time to seeing a victorious and talented team of young musicians from the school shine at the music festival in the last five years.

"I am very grateful to my parents and siblings who have shown so much support and of course Mr Mbinji for the training," said Abigail



Aga Khan Academy's Abigail Obiero performs her winning solo. (PHOTO:GEORGE ORIDO/STANDARD)

at the end of the fete held at Kasarani stadium in Nairobi.

Throughout the festival in Nairobi, her siblings attended daily, they always had everything ready. Her parents provided everything she needed for the competition and took great care of her; she always had her water prepared for her, which was a mixture of lemon, honey, ginger and garlic.

According to her father Mr Obiero, even as a tiny tot, Abigail would stop to breastfeed just to listen to the musical beats played during TV commercial breaks.

"She would be involved in every activity in her nursery that involved music and now a national champion in the Kenya Music Festivals this year is such a feat to celebrate," said the happy father.

This young girl has worked tirelessly and with a lot of determination

towards the Kenya Music Festivals and never had a holiday once they closed school. She was always in the music room in school with her music director Mbinji, she would sing every minute even after the sessions she had with her music director.

POOL OF TALENT

Also from Aga Khan Academy Mombasa and scoring 91 per cent marks and with yet another top position was Saumya Gupta who performed the *Entertainer* in the advanced piano Class 9031.

Yet Diya Gohil came crowning the fete with another big win in the 111H Class that has been the specialty of Aga Khan Academy Mombasa in the last half decade.

Again Abigail Obiero thrilled with her expressive rendition of *Angel's Ever Bright* and *Fair by Handel* as David Solomon presented *Cinderella*.

Where You Walk by George Frederick Handel was colourfully rendered by Nicolette Maina as Diya Gohil won with *Silent Worship* by Frederick Handel.

"I am so happy to have won this class. I want to thank my teacher Philip Mbinji and my parents for the big support," said a jovial Diya after receiving the trophy from Peter Onyancha of the National Organisation of Peer Educators (NOPE).

Another Gold for Aga Khan Academy Mombasa came through a splendid performance of *Rishika Ghokale* in the Bharat-Ntyam solo dance in the Oriental class 8621.

The duo of Erica Nondi and Catherine Delight was a delight at the fete when they performed *There's a Meeting Here Tonight* by Harry Dexter in the Negro Spiritual Arranged for Two-Part Singers.

They came second in the class

with whooping 89 per cent score bringing a silver lining in the trophy trove that came to the school.

The quartet of Abuto Joedy, David Solomon, Hilda Wambui and Esther Sifa brought Bronze in the Class 123H Quartet own choice with *What Kind-er Shoes*, a Negro spiritual arranged by Hall Johnson.

"We have done very well and I am proud of the students because I know they gave their very best and thanks to the school administration and parents who have supported the team all through," said music teacher Philip Mbinji at the close of the music festival in at Kasarani in Nairobi.

These results shows that Aga Khan Academy Mombasa remains a music power house in Kenya and is the place to be a student who is keen on shaping a music prowess in the future.